

***THECLINESTHES MISKINI* (T. P. LUCAS) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM NORTH-WESTERN IRIAN JAYA, INDONESIA**

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Abstract

Theclinessthes miskini (T. P. Lucas) is recorded for the first time from the Vogelkop area of Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Though somewhat different, the population is tentatively placed as subsp. *feminalba* Sibatani and Grund.

Introduction

In the Irian Jaya (Indonesia)/Papua New Guinea region *Theclinessthes miskini* (T. P. Lucas) is represented by three subspecies: *arnoldi* (Fruhstorfer), 1916, with usually blue males and which is widely distributed in the Bismarck Archipelago and southern half of Papua New Guinea; *feminalba* Sibatani and Grund, 1978, with darker males and whitish females found on the eastern end of the north coast of Irian Jaya and on Manam and Karkar Islands, Papua New Guinea; and *brandti* Sibatani and Grund, 1978, with sparsely blue-scaled males and greyish-blue females from the Admiralty Islands, Papua New Guinea.

Here I record a population of this species from the Vogelkop area of Irian Jaya where the species has so far been unknown. It does not agree with any known subspecies exactly, but because of the very small number of available specimens I place it tentatively as subspecies *feminalba*. Below I describe the two sexes following the convention of Sibatani and Grund (1978).

***Theclinessthes miskini feminalba* Sibatani and Grund, 1978**

Vogelkop population

(Figs 1, 2)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: INDONESIA: Irian Jaya, north of Arfak Mountains, Warumare 150-600 m, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 28.i.1974 (T. Nishizawa) in collection of A. Sibatani.

Male 13 mm (Fig. 1). Above dark brown; blue areas without violet tinge and limited to caudal half of proximal part of both wings; subterminal lunules in caudal half of hind wing; cilia white on fore wing, chequered on hind wing; otherwise similar to *feminalba* holotype.

Female 13 mm (Fig. 2). Above ground colour somewhat paler than in male; proximally dull greyish blue in caudal half of both wings; blue area distad extending beyond discocellular bar on fore wing, limited as in male on hind wing; cilia white, slightly dark at veins on fore wing, more clearly chequered on hind wing; otherwise as in *feminalba*.



Figs 1, 2. *Theclinessthes miskini feminalba* Sibatani and Grund, Vogelkop population; upper-side (left), underside (right). (1) ♂, (2) ♀. Scale: 1 cm.

COMMENTS

The male differs from any known subspecies of *miskini* in its very restricted blue areas above. The dull blue colour of the female is rather similar to, but less extensive than that of the female of subspecies *brandti*.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

- Sibatani, A. and Grund, R. B., 1978. A revision of the *Theclinessthes onycha* complex (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae). *Tyō to Ga (Transactions of the Lepidopterological Society of Japan)* 29(1): 1-34.

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